

West Indies and some parts of South Africa. In India, the species has now become naturalised not only in plains but has also invaded the hilly regions of Assam, Jammu and north-west Himalayas.

The weed causes allergic types of diseases such as asthma, fever and dermatitis and is dangerous to human beings and crops.

**Common name:** Congress grass, Gajar grass.

**Flowering and fruiting:** Practically all the year round but mostly from August to December.

**Specimens examined:** Kathmandu, K.K. Mishra 5010, 5011.

November 17, 1990

K.K. MISHRA

### 36. OCCURRENCE OF *CLERODENDRUM WALLICHII* MERR. (VERBENACEAE) IN SOUTH INDIA (With a text-figure)



Fig. 1. *Clerodendrum wallichii* Merr.

During the course of botanical explorations in some parts of the Western Ghats, we collected an interesting species of *Clerodendrum* from Vythiri river banks, Wynad district, Kerala, namely *C. wallichii* Merr. A perusal of literature shows that it is distributed in the northern parts of India to Burma and often grown in gardens for its elegant pendulous inflorescence.

*Clerodendrum wallichii* Merr. in Journ. Arn. Arb. 33: 220, 1952; Backer Fl. Java 2: 611, 1965; D.B. Deb Fl. Trip. State 2: 109, 1983. *Clerodendrum nutans* Wall. ex D. Don Prodr. Fl. Nepal 103, 1825 non Jack 1820; Clarke in F.B.I. 4: 591, 1885.

**Specimens examined:** Wynad, Kerala, Pradeep 6036 (CALI).

We thank Prof. K.S. Manilal, Head of Department of Botany, University of Calicut, for providing necessary facilities.

A.K. PRADEEP

February 19, 1990

K.M. JAYARAM

### 37. *DIDYMOCARPUS PYGMAEA* CLARKE (GESNERIACEAE) — A NEW RECORD FROM MAHARASHTRA

During frequent visits to various localities of Bhandara district (Maharashtra) I collected *Didymocarpus pygmaea* Clarke from Mahadev hills of Amgaon tehsil. This species has not been reported from Maharashtra (Cooke 1901-1908, Mahabale 1987) being known so far from Madhya Pradesh (Mukherjee 1984, Verma *et al.* 1985), Madras (Gamble 1957), Bihar and Orissa (Haines 1961). This paper records for the first time the occurrence of *Didymocarpus pygmaea* Clarke from Maharashtra. Voucher specimens are housed in the Herbarium, Department of Botany, Bhawbhuti Mahavidyalaya, Amgaon.

*Didymocarpus pygmaea* Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 345. 1884; D.C., Monogr. Phan. 5: 82. 1885; Duthie, Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. B S I reprint 2(1): 168. 1960; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras B. S. I. reprint 2: 694, 1957; Haines, Bot. Bihar & Orissa B. S. I. reprint 2: 679, 1961.

Plants tiny herbs; stem 4 to 25 mm tall, slender, curved, bearing one leaf at its apex. Leaf elliptic-ovate, 2.5 x 2 cm or much smaller, oblique, obtuse at both ends, thin; petiole 0-2 mm long. Pedicels few, 5-8 mm long, tubular. Stamens two, fertile, two, linear rudiments, glabrous; anther cell two, ovate, oblique, scarcely

confluent by their tips. Ovary and style villous; stigma small, subcapitate, scarcely 2-lobed. Capsule 1.5-2 cm long, nearly straight, 2-valved. Seeds ellipsoid, small, smooth, minutely reticulate.

**Flowers and fruits:** August-September.

Occasional, in shade in rocky areas.

**Specimen examined:** Mahadev hills (Amgaon), 352. March 9, 1991

S.M. BHUSKUTE

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### 38. DISTRIBUTION OF *GLOCHIDION HIRSUTUM* (ROXB.) VOIGT IN INDIA (With a text-figure)

During a floristic expedition (1986 to 1990) in Sambalpur district, Orissa, a small population of a small tree was recorded from Pradhanpat falls (Deogarh), which is now identified as *Glochidion hirsutum* (Roxb.) Voigt of Euphorbiaceae. In the same area, another species, *G. zeylanicum* (Gaertn.) A. Juss was also found growing side by side.

Hooker (1887) recorded the distribution of *G. hirsutum* as "Sikkim, Terai and Assam to Chittagong

and Penang (= Pinang)." He also noted that the species was introduced into the Indian Botanic garden "probably from China". Airy Shaw (1972) noted its distribution as "Eastern Himalaya to Hainan, Hong Kong and Formosa (= Taiwan)". In literature, the records of Indian distribution include North Bengal, duars, Sikkim, Andamans and Assam (Hooker 1887, Prain 1903, Kanjilal *et al.* 1940). At the herbarium CAL specimens from West Bengal, eastern Himalaya, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andamans represent the Indian distribution. Specimens from West Bengal (and eastern Himalaya) are from Jaldaka valley (500-1000 m) and Dulka Jhar (Darjeeling), which represent the extremity of its distribution in eastern India as well as in south-east Asia.

A scrutiny of the climatic conditions of the areas of distribution of *G. hirsutum* shows that it grows in preferentially in thickly forested hilly regions, generally warm and humid habitat. The distribution is centred between the easternmost hilly tract of India and Malayan peninsula and then extends on both sides. Though no recently published flora in India recorded the species and the collection at CAL are also all old specimens, its occurrence in Darjeeling (eastern Himalaya) in north-eastern region and Malabar (Maharashtra and Karnataka) in the south-western region of India appears broadly discontinuous. Apparently, it shows a climatic disjunctive distribution, and its absence from the eastern coastal regions of the country as well as from Sri Lanka and Kerala remains



Fig. 1. *Glochidion hirsutum* (Roxb.) Voigt